made will lead to the property of these temples being better conserved and the prescribed services more satisfactorily attended to.

18. **Separate Revenue.**—An important measure in connection with the Piravagay or Separate Revenue Department which had been long under the consideration of the Government was adopted during the year. The Piravagay Department which used to administer the revenue under Salt, Abkari, Customs, Tobacco, Opium and Ganja, Marine, Arms and Ammunition amounting to more than 45 per cent of the total revenue of the State, was re-organized and placed on a more satisfactory footing. The Dewan Peishkars in addition to their various other duties had to supervise not only the collection of the revenue of this Department but also the administration of the rules and regulations framed for the protection of such revenue. With a view to afford relief to the Peishkars and for the proper future administration of these important items of revenue under a uniform and definite policy in the interests of both the Government and the general public, His Highness the Maha Rajah was pleased to sanction the organization of a separate Excise Department, working under the control of a special officer styled the "Excise Commissioner".

The functions of this Department are the supervision of the tobacco, customs, and salt offices and distilleries and the prevention of smuggling of salt, opium, ganja, tobacco and arrack and illicit tapping for toddy and arrack, distillation of arrack and unauthorised growth of the ganja and tobacco plants; the examination of tobacco, salt, opium and arrack shops and generally to develop, collect and protect the items of revenue above referred to and to administer the rules and regulations framed for the collection and protection of such revenue.

The practical working of the new Department belongs to the current year. One notable change made in regard to the administration of one of the items of revenue of this Department, *viz.* opium and ganja, was the introduction of the Excise system. Under this system this item is expected to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 45,000. The excise system in regard to Abkari is already in force in the two Southern Divisions, and when the present Abkari contract expires in the two Northern Divisions, it will be introduced in those Divisions also.

Salt.—The total quantity of home-made, Bombay and Tinnevelly salt available for issue was 11,30,931 maunds. The sales were 7,83,547 maunds as against 7,49,142 maunds in 1079. Though there was an increase in the sales to the extent of 34,405 maunds the revenue amounted to only Rs. 17,90,062 or Rs. 1,37,775 less than in the previous year owing to the reduction in the selling price from Rs. 2½ to Rs. 2 per maund during the latter part of the year.

Home-made salt.—Besides the existing Allams *viz.* those at Tamarakulam, Rajakkamangalam and Variyoor, the old Colachel Allam which was resuscitated was also worked during the year. The total out-turn from all the above Allams was 1,78,461 maunds.

Customs.—During the year export duty on prepared palmyra fibre was reduced from 2½ to 1 per cent and the tariff value thereon from Rs. 15 to Rs. 12½ per cwt.

19. **Sanitation.** During the past year, the number of births registered was 58,657 and that of deaths 42,243. 1,55,655 persons were vaccinated during the year, of whom over 13,000 were infants.

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The year was quite free from cholera; but there was a mild out-break of small-pox in the Northern Division.

A Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation is shortly to be introduced in the Legislative Council. The unlimited appropriation of the funds of the State for the conservancy and improvement of towns is wrong in principle and unfair to the general tax-payer. With a view to introduce Municipal Government in the towns it is proposed to establish Municipal Councils, as far as possible on an electoral basis, to invest these bodies with power to raise the necessary funds and to make them responsible for the proper sanitation of the urban areas entrusted to their care.

20. **Medical Relief.**—The number of permanent medical institutions remained the same as in the previous year, *viz.* 22 Hospitals, 20 Dispensaries, 2 Asylums for lunatics and lepers and 8 grant-in-aid institutions. The total number of in-patients treated during the year was over 16,000 and of out-patients over 7,00,000. Both figures show increases over those for the previous year.

A medical conference was held in July 1905. As the outcome of the conference the Weekly and Bi-weekly Dispensaries were abolished as they were found to serve no useful purpose. The rules regarding the admission to and promotion in the grade of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons were better defined and the status of these officers was improved. The designation of the Apothecaries in the Superior Grade (Graduates) was changed to "Sub-Assistant Surgeons". It was also decided to place the Maternity and the Women and Children's Hospitals under the control of the Lady Doctor. The opening of a Dispensary at Karamanay and of an Ophthalmic Hospital at the Capital were also sanctioned. These proposals will be given effect to during the current year.

At the suggestion of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Benziger, Bishop of Quilon, it has been decided to entertain 8 Nursing Sisters in the Medical Department.

Veterinary Hospital.—269 cases were admitted for treatment during the year. There was an outbreak of glanders in the town and two horses were destroyed under special arrangements, and the private stables are now being regularly inspected.

21. **Public Instruction.**—The total number of schools in 1080 was 3,630 and the total number of scholars 1,95,999 as against 3,727 and 1,97,385 respectively in 1079. While Government and Aided Schools have increased by 97 with 4,345 scholars, the private unaided schools have decreased by 194 with 5,731 scholars, resulting in a net reduction of 97 schools and 1,386 scholars from those of the previous year. The gradual decline of the private unaided schools has been a noteworthy feature of the last few years and is a matter rather for satisfaction than for regret. For, it shews, as was explained in last year's address, that the unscientific instruction imparted in the pial schools by the old *Asans* is giving place to the better training given in Government and Aided Schools.

The percentage of pupils under instruction to the total population was 6·6 which compares favourably with 1·99 in Mysore, 3·0 in all British India, 3·09 in Madras, 4·0 in Bengal and 6·2 in Bombay.

The expenditure on Education in 1080 was 9·56 per cent of the total revenue. In Baroda the percentage is 6·5, Bengal 1·17, Bombay 1·44 and Madras 1·33.

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